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PENTAGON WARNS ON SOVIET CIVIL DEFENSE DRIVE

By Henry S. Bradsher
Washington Star Staff Writer

The former head of the Pentagon's Defense Intelligence Agency says the Soviet Union might "alter the strategic military relationship" with the United States by military efforts that include a large civil defense program.

Lt. Gen. Samuel V. Wilson, who has since retired, told a congressional committee that the change could put the United States at a disadvantage by the mid-1980s.

CIA Director Stansfield Turner told the committee the Soviets do not presently "possess a civil defense capability that would enable them to feel that they could with reasonable expectation absorb a retaliatory strike at levels of damage that would be acceptable to them."

But, Turner added, "the Soviet Union is making more progress and effort in civil defense today than is the United States." While Wilson's concern was with the future, Turner

dealt reassuringly only with the current situation.

NEITHER OFFICIAL'S testimony to the Joint Economic Committee, given secretly last June and made public in edited form today, dealt with Soviet efforts to develop an antiballistic missile (ABM) defense system as part of the overall program that includes civil defense. Wilson noted, however, that civil defense was related to "various offensive and defensive measures."

A secret new Pentagon study has

stirred increasing concern in the Carter administration over Soviet success in developing all the components for a workable ABM system. If such a system were deployed — in violation of a Soviet-American treaty — it could protect the Soviet Union from some warheads launched in a U.S. retaliatory attack.

With ABM cover, a civil defense system, by itself insufficient to offer meaningful protection against an unimpeded missile attack, would be-

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come a major element in the Kremlin's military posture. Wilson suggested the new way the parts would fit together could alter the balance of terror that exists between the two superpowers.

PRESIDENT CARTER announced last March that Moscow had agreed to discuss the possibility of an agreement to curtail civil defense work as part of disarmament efforts. But the Soviets have not seemed eager to get the talks going, and the administration has not yet decided on its own negotiating position.

The National Security Council is nearing completion of work on a presidential review memorandum on civil defense, using material from the intelligence community and other parts of the administration. The United States now has virtually no civil defense program to protect the American people from nuclear attack. The study is considering whether this country needs a modern program.

Officials have described Carter as hoping to talk the Soviets out of their program so as to avoid the possibility of having to match it with a vastly expensive American program. But the Soviet military mentality has traditionally emphasized defensive measures, and many Soviet affairs analysts doubt that the Kremlin might be dissuaded from its program.

COOLER HEADS prevailed, sources said, and it was decided that sending a U.S. doctor to check up on Park would be counterproductive, particularly since congressional investigators hope to get further South Korean cooperation to obtain testimony from other witnesses considered essential to the probe.

Among these prospective witnesses is former South Korean Ambassador Kim Dong Jo, who allegedly delivered envelopes stuffed with \$100 bills to congressional offices. South Korea has claimed its right to diplomatic immunity for Kim, but probers hope his "absolutely crucial" testimony can be obtained "voluntarily."

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